

65 MORE RUEF INDICTMENTS.

THE SAN FRANCISCO GRAND JURY ACTS ON FRANCHISE GRANT.

Dethroned Boss Is Expected to Make Terms With the Prosecution That Will Result in the Indictment of the Men Who Put Up the Money to Buy Franchises.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 20.—Sixty-five indictments were presented last afternoon by the Grand Jury against the Ruef bribery in connection with the United Railroads, Gas Company and Home Telephone franchises and the prizefight permits, and ten against T. W. Halsey in connection with the Pacific States Telephone Company franchise.

The indictments were brought into Judge Coffey's court by the foreman of the Grand Jury at 5:30 o'clock. They filled a large suitcase.

Only the Grand Jury members and the newspaper men were present. After the foreman had pulled out about a half bushel of documents and read over the titles of the separate batches of indictments Judge Coffey said, with grim humor: "Is that all?"

Then the Judge asked if any of the Grand Jurymen wanted a commission to go to the Philippines and bring Halsey back. There was no response except a broad smile around the court room. Then the Judge asked the District Attorney what he thought was fitting as bail. District Attorney Langan said \$5,000 cash bail on each indictment and \$10,000 in bonds.

The Judge agreed that this was fair, but he said, with the \$100,000 which Ruef had already put up as bail bonds, this would represent three quarters of a million dollars.

"Well," said Langan, "that ought to hold him."

The court then adjourned.

Of the sixty-five indictments against Ruef seventeen were concerned with the United Railroads, seventeen with the San Francisco Gas and Electric Company, thirteen with the Home Telephone Company and eighteen with the prizefight permits.

The indictments in connection with the United Railroads are numbered from one to seventeen and each specifies that payment of the amount given was made by Ruef to a supervisor for his vote for the franchise granting the United Railroads permission to electrify its lines and use overhead trolleys, which had been strongly opposed by popular opinion before the fact.

The following are the names and amounts in these indictments:

1. Nicholas, \$4,000; 2. Phillips, \$4,000; 3. Sanderson, \$4,000; 4. Walsh, \$4,000; 5. Wilson, \$10,000; 6. McGushen, \$4,000; 7. Hamlock, \$4,000; 8. Loneragan, \$4,000; 9. Kelly, \$4,000; 10. Harrison, \$4,000; 11. Gallagher, \$15,000; 12. Duffey, \$4,000; 13. Davis, \$4,000; 14. Coleman, \$4,000; 15. Coffey, \$4,000; 16. Boston, \$4,000.

The payments to the San Francisco Gas and Electric franchises were \$750 to each of the following supervisors: Boston, Loneragan, Walsh, McGushen, Phillips, Kelly, Duffey, Gallagher, Coleman, Rea, Davis, Sanderson, Furey.

In connection with the franchise to the Home Telephone Company the following amounts were paid to the several supervisors to secure their votes for the franchise: 1. Loneragan, \$3,500; 2. Harrison, \$3,500; 3. Davis, \$3,500; 4. Duffey, \$3,500; 5. Wilson, \$3,500; 6. Phillips, \$3,500; 7. Coleman, \$3,500; 8. Kelly, \$3,500; 9. Kelly, \$3,500; 10. Nicholas, \$3,500; 11. Kelly, \$3,500; 12. Coffey, \$3,500; 13. Furey, \$3,500.

In connection with the light trust, Ruef paid out of the following amounts for the following Supervisors for their votes to grant permits for prizes to the following: 1. Loneragan, \$3,500; 2. Harrison, \$3,500; 3. Davis, \$3,500; 4. Duffey, \$3,500; 5. Wilson, \$3,500; 6. Phillips, \$3,500; 7. Coleman, \$3,500; 8. Kelly, \$3,500; 9. Kelly, \$3,500; 10. Nicholas, \$3,500; 11. Kelly, \$3,500; 12. Coffey, \$3,500; 13. Furey, \$3,500.

The indictments returned last April against T. W. Halsey, local manager of the Pacific States Telephone Company, specify that Halsey paid \$5,000 to each of the following Supervisors to secure their vote for a franchise to his company. These payments were made without the aid of Ruef, who afterward forced these Supervisors to vote for the Pacific States Telephone Company, thus giving the Pacific States Company the double cross.

The following are the indictments for \$5,000 each: Nicholas, Coleman, Coffey, Wilson, Furey, Boston, Walsh, Loneragan, Phillips and Hamlock.

All these indictments were returned before Superior Judge Coffey, who fixed the bail in each case at \$5,000 in cash or twice that amount in bonds. The cash bail Ruef will have to put up \$325,000 free, although the Judge intimated that he would be willing to accept a fair amount of bail, say \$100,000, for the whole lot of indictments.

It is apparent from the fact that Ruef was the only one indicted aside from Halsey, who is charged with the conspiracy, that the prosecution hopes to use this enormous mass of indictments as a club over the head of Ruef. Their purpose, according to good authority, is to force Ruef to go to the bottom of the matter, confession from Ruef, offering him certain immunities for his assistance.

Those who are talked with Ruef believe he will accept of any terms which will soften the prosecution, as the whole of the confessions of the supervisors have out the ground from under the feet of the prosecution. The prosecution is mainly concerned to secure the indictment of the heads of the United Railroads and of the gas and telephone companies, but to do this they must be able to prove that the money was paid by the corporations to Ruef.

Unless Ruef confesses this will be an extremely difficult thing to establish. The prosecution also desires to have the way made clear for the annulment of the franchise of the United Railroads, which will be the next step in the program after the conviction.

It is this annulment which is especially desired by Randolph Spreckels, who put up \$100,000 for this prosecution. Spreckels was an applicant for an underground electric franchise, and would probably have lost it had it not been for the opposition of the United Railroads.

The remarkable statement was made to-night by one close to the prosecution that not one of the hoodlums Supervisors would be indicted. This informant said that the Supervisors had been represented by legal counsel and that they had made their statements only after distinct offers of immunity had been made by the prosecution.

This immunity offer made in legal form steps all indictment and prosecution. In addition to this immunity it is declared that the prosecution will be content to let Mayor Schmitz and the Supervisors from office. In fact the whole force of the prosecution will be directed against Ruef in order to force the indictment of the heads of the big corporations who are accused of giving the bribes.

It is understood that Patrick Calhoun, president of the United Railroads, and E. A. Pillsbury of the Pacific States Telephone Company are the chief men whom the prosecution desires to get rid of.

WHEN STOCKS SLUMP

at the rate of a million a minute, as they did in Wall Street last week, it's time to look about for a non-fluctuating investment. This company's

GUARANTEED MORTGAGES

never have depreciated and never will depreciate in value. They yield 4½ per cent interest, tax free. Mortgage Certificates for small amounts are equally safe and good.

No investor has ever lost a dollar.

BOND MORTGAGE GUARANTEE CO

Capital and Surplus, \$5,000,000
178 Broadway, New York
175 Remsen St., Brooklyn
350 Fulton St., Jamaica.

BINGHAM BILL IN SENATE.

Cities Committee Reports It By a Party Vote, the Republicans Favoring.

ALBANY, March 20.—The Bingham police bill was reported favorably in the Senate to-day by the Cities Committee. The vote in favor of reporting the bill, which was on strict party lines, indicates that it is to be made a party measure. The friends of the measure, however, will not relax their efforts in its behalf. It is a matter of history that bills that have been made party measures in the past have been defeated.

In 1890, when Theodore Roosevelt was Governor, he wanted the New York police force reformed, and a bill for that purpose was introduced. A caucus of the Republican Senators was held, but Senators Coghlan and Wilcox bolted it, and the bill was defeated.

There are thirty-two Republican Senators this year, so that in order to defeat the bill providing all the Democrats vote against it, it would be necessary to get seven Republican votes. This wouldn't be so hard as one might think, Senator Wilcox, who opposed the Roosevelt police bill in 1890, is still in the Senate, but it is doubtful if all of the Democrats will vote against the bill.

The Assembly passed to-day Assemblyman Prentiss' bill providing for a fourth degree police commission in New York. The bill also permits the Board of Estimate to increase the salaries of the Commissioner and his deputies.

DETECTIVES SAY THEY'LL SUE.

Men Accused by the Rev. Mr. Beattie Deny Truth of His Statements.

Because of the accusations made against them by the Rev. L. W. Beattie in his talk before the Senate Cities Committee in favor of Commissioner Bingham's police bill Detective Sergeants Thomas Munday and John J. Fogarty said yesterday that they intend to institute a civil action. Before a member of the police department could bring a civil suit he has to receive the consent of the Commissioner, and it is likely that Gen. Bingham will look into the charges the clergyman made against Fogarty and Munday before permitting them to sue.

Commissioner Bingham wouldn't discuss the affair yesterday, but it was hinted that he believed the Rev. Mr. Beattie had some grounds for his accusations, else he would not have gone to Albany and opened up the two sleuths as he did. Munday and Fogarty denied yesterday that they ever had stood in with crooks or on any deal, and both declared they will demand an investigation even if the Commissioner refuses to permit them to bring suit. They have good records in the department and have made some important captures since they have been attached to the Detective Bureau.

Fogarty caught Bill Mason and his burglar band, for which he was made a detective sergeant, eight years ago. He and Munday were in the case of the late Mayor's son, the ring leader to prison after he had fled a guest of the Fifth Avenue Hotel out of \$50,000. Inspector McLaughlin released them, and they were given credit.

The Rev. Mr. Beattie told the members of the Senate Cities Committee that two detectives in connection with the case of larceny a man whom he believed to be innocent, while they were equally as strenuous in trying to have discharged from custody a man whom he believed to be guilty of the theft.

ADIRONDACK GRAB HEARING.

Assemblyman Merritt Admits He Has a Financial Interest in the Matter.

ALBANY, March 20.—The representatives of the New York Board of Trade and Transportation, the Merchants' Association and various other bodies and the Association for the Preservation of the Adirondacks appeared to-day before the Judiciary Committee of the two houses at the joint hearing on the O'Neil-Merritt water storage constitutional amendment in favor of the Adirondack power and paper companies.

Assemblyman Merritt marshalled a big force from the Adirondacks, consisting of businessmen who told him that if it would be for the Adirondacks if the constitutional amendment was adopted.

Assemblyman Merritt was asked if he had any interest in the proposed amendment and said he had, a financial one.

The main address in opposition was made by John G. Agar of the Association for the Preservation of the Adirondacks. He said that the amendment would be a grab for the industrial resources of the State there was plenty of hydraulic power outside of the Adirondacks for that purpose. He declared that the amendment was a grab for the industrial resources of the State there was plenty of hydraulic power outside of the Adirondacks for that purpose.

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O. & W. WILL RESIST.

Says It Altered Its Road at the State's Request and Charged What the Work Cost.

At the offices of the New York, Ontario and Western Railroad it was said yesterday that the company would resist any attempt the Attorney-General might make to compel it to pay back the \$120,000 which the State had paid to the road on the authority of the canal board. The company had not received Attorney-General Jackson's letter, but seeing it in the newspapers, took it for granted that it had been written. One of the officers of the company said that the company's claim against the State was perfectly legitimate. The canal board had asked the company to make certain changes in its road at Wood Creek. The company did it and simply got from the State what it cost to do it. It was the condition of the contract that the State had no more right to ask the company to make these changes without compensating it than it had to ask the owner of a private house near the canal to move it without paying the damages.

In regard to the Attorney-General's statement that the railroad had no title to the canal property on which its bridge stood, this officer said the records had not been looked up yet, but he presumed that the officers of the road knew what they were doing when they built the bridge, and in any event possession for forty years would give them a question of ownership rights. The railroad, it was declared, had nothing to conceal in the transaction. Its claim against the State was perfectly legitimate. The canal board had asked the company to make certain changes in its road at Wood Creek. The company did it and simply got from the State what it cost to do it. It was the condition of the contract that the State had no more right to ask the company to make these changes without compensating it than it had to ask the owner of a private house near the canal to move it without paying the damages.

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ANTI-RACING BILL HEARING.

COUNTY FAIR PEOPLE OBJECT TO A YEARLY GRANT.

Demand an Annual Percentage of Excess or Inheritance Taxes Before They Will Consent to the Repeal of the Percy-Gray Racing Law—Ministers Militant.

ALBANY, March 20.—Although it is well known that unless Gov. Hughes sends a special message to the Legislature urging the repeal of the Percy-Gray betting law there isn't a chance of that statute being wiped off the books this year an extended hearing was had to-day on the Jerome bills. The Senate chamber was filled with representatives of the churches and ministerial associations, who were there to urge the passage of the repeal act, while sitting beside them were farmers and representatives of agricultural societies who wanted the law to remain as it is.

It has been planned to overcome the opposition of the agricultural societies by giving them an annual State direct appropriation of \$20,000 for their fairs. J. B. Durkee of Sandy Hill, president of the State Agricultural Society, informed the committee that if the Percy-Gray betting law was repealed then some other provision must be made for the fair associations so they would not have to rely upon the whims of the Legislature each year.

"You will have to allot us a certain percentage annually of the excess or collateral inheritance tax receipts," he said, "because we are not going to come here every year to appeal for our appropriation."

Senator Cassidy asked Mr. Durkee if the fair associations would favor the bill if they received a direct appropriation. Mr. Durkee said the agricultural societies would wash their hands of the matter, but he could not be made to say that they would not favor the repeal bill, and Senator Cassidy said: "In other words, you propose to be bought for \$20,000?"

Coadjutor Bishop H. W. Nelson of the Protestant Episcopal diocese of Albany, the Rev. Dr. Laidlaw, secretary of the New York Federation of Churches, Dr. Barnes of New York city, representing 334 Baptist churches in the State; the Rev. A. S. Gregg, the secretary of the National Reform Society, who is responsible for the Catholic and Henry C. Wright of the Civic Society of New York city spoke in favor of the bill.

The Rev. Father Farrell of New York, representing the Catholic churches, brought a message from Archbishop Farley asking that the Percy-Gray law be repealed and saying that all Roman Catholics of New York city favored this action.

Mr. Wright said that while betting could not be stopped, the organized system that lived on gambling could be broken up. Bishop Nelson said he had found that the county fairs in New England, where he had been, had been successful in having visited race tracks and had played "sure things" which won. He said that many clerics embellished their sermons with stories of the races.

The chief argument against the bill was that by Elbert Auerbach of New York city. He said the poolrooms were the cause of all the evils of race tracks. He contended that it was impossible to stop betting, and that men would bet, no matter how many laws were enacted to prevent it. He said that men who bet on races could afford to do so. Mr. Auerbach said that the repeal of the Percy-Gray law would close the race tracks and end the breeding business in this State.

District Attorney Jerome's letter was read to the committee by Judge Agnew, and the members who remember the District Attorney's efforts to get the Canfield bill out of committee breathed easy when they heard the standard of the letters were read from Chancellor Day of Syracuse University and President A. V. Raymond of Union University in favor of the bill.

KESEY TO APPEAR TO-DAY.

Will Try to Justify His Administration of the Insurance Department.

ALBANY, March 20.—State Superintendent of Insurance Otto Kelsey will appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee to-morrow afternoon and begin his testimony to show that Gov. Hughes is in error in stating he has not satisfactorily discharged the duties of the office he holds.

Mr. Kelsey will be examined by ex-Supreme Court Justice Edward Hatch of New York city. Under his questioning it is to be shown that Mr. Kelsey has performed a magnificent feat of the State in the San Francisco fire disaster. The committee has not yet determined whether it will permit witnesses to be examined by a dozen ticket speculators present.

Mr. Burnham was asked if the theatres doing away with the Cherry Valley Iron Company, closed for \$4,000 tons of bessemer pig to be delivered in the second quarter of the present year. The price agreed on was \$22 a ton. The Cherry Valley Iron Company, with works at Leontia, Ohio, appears as seller on the contract, but W. F. Snyder, it is understood, will furnish the greater part of the iron.

Big Pig Iron Deal Closed.

PITTSBURGH, March 20.—The largest pig iron deal in months was closed to-day when the Cambria Steel Company, owned principally by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, closed for \$4,000 tons of bessemer pig to be delivered in the second quarter of the present year. The price agreed on was \$22 a ton. The Cherry Valley Iron Company, with works at Leontia, Ohio, appears as seller on the contract, but W. F. Snyder, it is understood, will furnish the greater part of the iron.

Records Introduced to Show Shipments of Individual Cars.

CHICAGO, March 20.—District Attorney Sims completed to-day, before Judge Landis, the introduction of records and evidence in the case of the Chicago & North Western Railway Company, which was charged with the routing and transit of 1,908 tank cars of oil sent to St. Louis by way of East St. Louis from the Standard's plant at Whiting.

The Government contends these are the shipments of the Standard's oil, each car an illegal rate of six cents a hundred pounds, instead of 18 cents.

J. J. Rickett, chief clerk of the Alton's legal department, was called to the stand to testify on the ground that the records were perfect.

At the close of the testimony conductors and others were put on the stand to give testimony tending to prove that the Alton turned over to the Chicago & North Western Company to be delivered in St. Louis.

Bill Signed by Gov. Hughes.

ALBANY, March 20.—Gov. Hughes has signed these bills:

Mr. Duell's, increasing the amount of bonds which Mount Vernon may issue for street improvements from \$60,000 to \$100,000 and the amount which may be issued in any one year from \$20,000 to \$40,000.

Mr. Northrup's, authorizing the establishment of a curfew law in Poughkeepsie.

Albany Cheap Gas Bill Passed Senate.

ALBANY, March 20.—The Senate passed Senator Gratian's bill reducing the price of gas in Albany from \$1.30 to \$1. The Senate Miscellaneous Corporations Committee had amended the bill so that it provided for \$1.20 for next year and \$1.10 thereafter. Senator Gratian had the bill restored to its original form and passed to-day by a vote of 17 to 7.

"WHO STUFFED BALLOT BOX?"

Indictive Result After All Night Wrangle of Glen Ridge School Voters.

MONTCLAIR, N. J., March 20.—A school meeting held in the borough of Glen Ridge last night voted on a proposition advanced by the board to issue \$35,000 in bonds for the erection of a new wing containing four rooms and a laboratory to the present school building. Assembly hall, where the meeting took place, was packed with voters, including about 100 women who had forced the storm.

At 8 o'clock when the meeting was opened by Charles E. Hinrichs. Several voters rose to speak. Edmund A. Smith, an old settler, declared that it would be wiser to convert the big assembly room into classrooms than to spend \$35,000 to build a new addition to the building. He said: "Too much space in this school is given to social functions. It is really a dance hall with a school attached."

Mayor Lockwood defended the custom of using the assembly room for social purposes and asked where the citizens could meet in Glen Ridge if not in the school building. He asked: "What did we come to Glen Ridge for?"

B. H. Hunt asked: "Why don't we do as they do in New York, where they use all available space in school buildings for class rooms?"

At length, when everybody was exhausted from speaking or listening, the voters formed in line and balloting was begun. It was nearly 1 o'clock this morning when the ballots were all counted. The result showed that 270 voters had been cast. Of these 137 were in favor of the school board's proposition and 133 against it, giving an approximate margin of 2 of voters and that four ballots had been cast in excess of the legal number.

Mr. Durkee said the whole business, it's no vote," shouted one of the school board opponents, and a further examination of the tally list and ballots confirmed this. Former Assemblyman Hamilton L. Johnston, assessor of the borough, entered formal protest against the vote. William Ford, president of the school board, explained that they had recommended what they thought to be best for the borough. He did not say what further action would be taken.

Glen Ridge to-day is asking, "Who stuffed the ballot box?"

SAM HAD ANOTHER WIFE.

So Leana Hadachuk's Romance Was Broken Up Dramatically.

Leana Hadachuk was not married last night, and when the police looked up Samuel Wachman, who was just about to become her husband, there was no charge of bigamy registered against him for that reason. There were two hundred or more guests at the Metropolitan Hall, at 248 Eldridge street, who had a chance to be angry, because it all happened before the supper was eaten.

Wachman is a tailor who lives at 139 Essex street, and Leana has been living with her Uncle Moses at 188 Suffolk street. She was charged with bigamy because she had been married in Russia a long time ago and heard that there had been a divorce. And so the friends gathered last night in the hall hired for the occasion.

There was a sound of footsteps at the door just as the rabbi was about to begin. A tall man, carrying a stick, was abandoning a crying baby in her arms entered.

"Sam Sam," cried the woman with the baby, "would you have fooled that innocent girl?"

"It's all a mistake, Leana," said Sam to the trembling girl.

"I have a warrant here for you," said the tall man, "charging you with bigamy. This woman got it to-day from Magistrate Baker in the Essex Market court. I am an officer of the court."

Dr. David Eldridge street house, where Sam was taken, the woman with the baby said that she had been married to Samuel in Russia and that her name had been changed to Leana. She had been married to him through friends some time afterward and followed him.

ELMER T. ZABRISKIE SHOT.

Vengeful Italian Put Bullet into Young Man's Shoulder and Flee.

Pasquale Vio, who formerly worked for the Empire Biscuit Company at 44 Washington avenue, Brooklyn, entered the office yesterday, and saying to Elmer T. Zabriskie, 120 West 11th street, "You must pay for it," fired a revolver at Mr. Zabriskie. The bullet passed through his left hand and went into his left shoulder. He was not caught. Mr. Zabriskie was removed to the Cumberland Street Hospital.

Vio had worked for the company some time. One of his hands was injured several months ago. When he reported for work as well as editors of insurance papers, he got less money, and protested so often that he was discharged.

Mr. Zabriskie is 38 years old and is a member of an old New Jersey family. His home is at Tenafly, N. J., and he also has quarters at the Crescent Athletic Club of Brooklyn.

There is some opposition to the bill on the part of New York city citizens and they will ask a hearing on the measure. They say that the provisions of the bill are too much in favor of the railroad company.

Travis H. Whitney, legislative counsel for the Citizens Union, said to-day:

"I examined the bill on Monday night when it was introduced and am of the opinion that its provisions are such that many organizations in New York city would want to be heard in opposition to some of the provisions. It may be true that the New York Central and the Rapid Transit Company have agreed on the terms of the bill, but this in no respect necessarily means that the bill is satisfactory to the public."

The reason urged for rushing the bill is that time under the original act expires on March 26. An answer to this is that the agreement of the New York Central and the Rapid Transit Company, which March 26 is not essential, for under the present Eleventh avenue bill the Corporation Counsel can prepare papers and begin condemnation proceedings and then the city may discontinue the suit as the law provides. Incidentally, it should be noted that the parties who are on the bill the New York Central and the Rapid Transit Company knew that the time to begin condemnation proceedings was March 26, yet they waited until eight days previous thereto to have the bill introduced.

Bill to Tax Trinity Church Corporation.

ALBANY, March 20.—A bill to compel the Trinity Church Corporation of New York city to pay taxes on its personal property was introduced to-day by Assemblyman A. E. Smith (Tammany). The bill provides that where a religious corporation's income from real estate and personal property exceeds \$250,000 in a year it shall furnish to the Comptroller a report of all personal property from which it derives an income, together with the par and market value of the stocks, the personal property to be taxed in the future.

Amateur Boxing Bill Passes the Senate.

ALBANY, March 20.—By a vote of 31 to 7 the Senate passed Senator Frawley's bill to-day permitting the Amateur Athletic Union to conduct sparring exhibitions between amateurs. The bouts are to be of not more than fifteen minutes duration and all boxing tournaments must be sanctioned by the A. U. The bill also provides that the prize money in boxing must be eight ounces in weight.

The bill was introduced by Senator Frawley two years ago but Gov. Higgins vetoed it.

EQUAL PAY FOR THE WOMEN.

VIGOROUS REPORT ON THE TEACHERS' BILL.

The Measure a Compromise—It Allows a Modification of the Teachers and Their Work—New York Board of Education Blamed for Neglect in Salary Matters.

ALBANY, March 20.—The Senate Cities Committee reported favorably to-day a compromise school teachers' salary bill for New York city. In reporting the bill the committee issued a statement saying:

"The committee begs leave to report that in its opinion the provisions of the Greater New York Charter in relation to the salaries of the members of the supervising and teaching staff of the public schools of the city of New York need revision. The committee believes that the Board of Education of the city of New York is subject to just criticism for its failure to justly and equitably compensate a numerous portion of the teaching staff of the public schools of that city. Nor is it an answer to say that it did not have the necessary money, for the Board of Education has never, to the knowledge of the committee, offered any suggestion to the Legislature as to the need of more funds to properly conduct the schools and fairly compensate the teachers."

On the other hand, the committee deems it just to say that the Board of Education has undoubtedly been hampered in its work by the provisions of the so-called Davis law, in that the said Davis law contains schedules regulating to a considerable extent the salaries to be paid the teachers. The committee does not expect that it can satisfy the demands of all the teachers, nor that it can offer a bill which will in all respects meet its own views from a theoretical standpoint, but it respectfully submits a measure which it believes to be a great step in the right direction in that it gives a greater measure of home rule and a fuller and fairer opportunity to the Board of Education to regulate the conduct of its business, and on the other hand, lays down certain fundamental provisions which it regards as essential to the public interest.

The bill provides that the Board of Education shall have the power to fix salaries of all members of the supervising and teaching staff. This is the present law restricted by the requirements of certain minimum salaries and by provisions for definite annual increases of the salaries.

In fixing these salaries the Board of Education shall take into consideration merit, grade of class taught, sex of class taught, order of school, free evening (day) school and of school. This gives opportunity to recognize ability and service in the school and to give a salary to the groups that the amount of money available, four mills on each dollar of taxable property, can be administered economically.

That salaries of principals and assistant principals shall